

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1999

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2016

Tribals in Central University

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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of tribals who have access to education and details of their enrolment in the primary education in the country;
- (b) the number of vacancies in Scheduled Tribe (ST) seats set aside for tribals in central universities and the number of such vacancies out of the total allocation of seats;
- (c) whether the Ministry is aware that there is a low transition of tribals moving from primary to higher education; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Ministry to improve the numbers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a): As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), 2014-15, students belonging to Scheduled Tribe (ST) community form 10.83% of the total enrolment at the primary level in all schools (Govt., aided and private). This is more than their share in the population which is 8.6% (as per Census 2011).

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for children's access to elementary schools within the defined area or limits of neighbourhood. Further, the Act places a compulsion on the State to ensure that no child from the weaker sections or disadvantaged groups is discriminated against in any manner or prevented from pursuing and completing elementary education. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which is the key vehicle to implement the RTE Act provides for opening of a primary and upper primary school within a walking distance of one and three kilometer respectively. Under the SSA, near universal access has been achieved at the elementary level of schooling. 97% and 96.6% habitations have been covered with primary and upper primary schools respectively. As per UDISE 2014-15, the Gross Enrolment Ratio at primary and upper primary level is 100.08% and 91.24% respectively.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) provides for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality at the secondary and higher secondary stage. RMSA norms provide a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation, which should be 5 kilometer for secondary schools and 7 -10 kilometers for higher secondary schools. As per UDISE 2014-15, the Gross Enrolment Ratio at secondary and higher secondary level is 78.51% and 54.21% respectively.

(b): The University Grants Commission (UGC) does not centrally maintain data regarding the number of vacancies in Schedule Tribes (ST) seats. However, at present in 40 Central Universities under the purview of UGC, there are 22826 students enrolled who belong to ST community.

(c) & (d): As per UDISE 2014-15, the enrolment share of children belonging to ST community at primary and upper primary level is 10.83% and 9.76% respectively. At the secondary and higher secondary level, the enrolment share of children belonging to ST community is 8.49% and 6.45% respectively.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 provisions for free and compulsory education to children between the age group of 6-14 years. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides assistance to State Governments and UTs to ensure quality elementary education for all children. Universal enrolment is the first goal of SSA, and hence all efforts are being made to bring all children in schools. SSA has provided 2.04 lakh primary and 1.59 lakh upper primary schools for ensuring universal provisioning of schooling facilities. Preference for opening of school is given to tribal areas, and areas with high concentration of SC, ST and minority population. In addition, 3609 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas (KGBVs), which are residential schools for girls at upper primary level, have also been sanctioned to the States for improving access to marginalised girls particularly out of school, either drop out or never enrolled. Under the SSA, districts with 25% and above population of STs have been identified as Special Focus Districts (SFDs). In these ST concentrated SFDs, 508 KGBVs have been sanctioned out of which 507 are operational. The total enrolment of children at elementary level was 15.1 crores in 1998-99, which has increased to 19.7 crores in 2014-15.

Under SSA, provisions have also been made for residential schools/hostels and transportation/escort facility for children living in sparsely populated areas, children living in areas where schools cannot be opened due to unavailability of land and children in need of care and protection. Special training is also provided to all such children who are school dropouts and long absentees.

Additionally, other strategies adopted under SSA such as strengthening school infrastructure, improving pupil-teacher ratios, providing incentives like free textbooks, uniforms for all girls, children from SC/ST community, below poverty line children and mid-day meal in schools have proved to be useful in increasing the enrolment of children in elementary schools.

For improving the access of all students, including students from ST community at the secondary level of schooling, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) provides for new secondary schools and by provisioning for additional classrooms, science laboratory, library, computer rooms, art/craft/culture rooms, toilets, drinking water facilities etc. in the new secondary schools and existing secondary schools. Interventions like survey and identification of out of school children, awareness programme, bridge courses, special teaching for learning enhancement etc. have also been supported under RMSA to increase the enrolment of all students. Under RMSA, 12,394 secondary schools have been approved since inception across all States and UTs, out of which 2,812 secondary schools have been approved in ST concentrated districts. RMSA has also supported strengthening of infrastructure of existing schools in 37,382 Government secondary schools in India, out of which 4826 have been approved in ST concentrated districts.
